

REMARKS

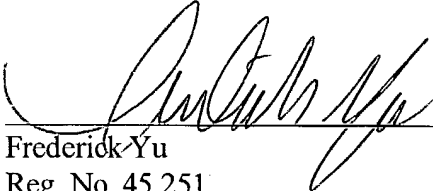
Claims 22-38 are pending in the above-identified application, (the "Application").

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed all pending claims 22-38 and closed prosecution on the merits in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*. In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that, although the Application was in condition for allowance, certain formal requirements needed to be fulfilled. Specifically, the Examiner requested that the Applicants supply certified copies of the PCT application on which the Application is based PCT/JP98/03666 and the foreign patent application 9/222182 from which the Application claims priority.

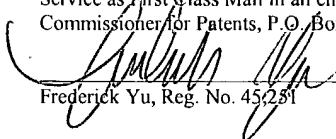
In telephone conversations between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney occurring on or before November 12, 2004, it was agreed that the United States Patent and Trademark Office should have received copies of the PCT application PCT/JP98/03666 and Japanese priority application 9/222182 from the International Bureau. It was further agreed that the Applicants need not send certified copies of these Applications to the USPTO and that the Examiner would contact the International Bureau to obtain copies of PCT application PCT/JP98/03666 and Japanese priority application 9/222182.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 15, 2004


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11/15/04
 Date